



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

PATENT

all  
01/16/04  
#10F

JAN 06 2004

~~MARK~~ Application of:  
Tony Kroeker

Serial No.: 09/874,550

Confirmation No.: 6635

Filed: June 4, 2001

**For: Single Wafer Load Lock With Internal Wafer Transport**

MAIL STOP RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Group Art Unit: 3652

Examiner: Steven A. Brattie

RECEIVED

JAN 12 2004

## GROUP 3600

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
**37 CFR 1.10**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on January 6, 2004 with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing label No. EV335478046US addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

1/6/04 Kent 2 lbs

Date Signature

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In conjunction with filing a request for continuing examination, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/AMAT/2640.Y2/KMT, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.